

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News; Medical Economics; Correspondence; Twenty-five Years Ago column; Department of Public Health; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

American Medical Association, Cleveland, Ohio, June 11-15. Olin West, M. D., Secretary, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

American Association for the Study of Goiter, Cleveland, June 7-9. J. D. Yung, M. D., Secretary, 670 Cherry Street, Terre Haute, Indiana.

North Pacific Pediatric Society, Vancouver, B. C., June 18. R. H. Somers, M. D., Secretary, 1305 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

Pacific Northwest Medical Association, Salt Lake City, June 21-23. C. W. Countryman, Secretary, 407 Riverside Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

Utah State Medical Association, Salt Lake City, June 21-23. Leland R. Cowan, M. D., Secretary, 305 Medical Arts Building, Salt Lake, Utah.

Medical Broadcasts*

American Medical Association Health Talks.—The American Medical Association broadcasts on a coast to coast network each Monday afternoon from 4 to 4:15 central daylight saving time (4 o'clock eastern standard time, 3 o'clock central standard time, 2 o'clock mountain time, and 1 o'clock Pacific standard time).

The Association broadcasts on a western network of the Columbia Broadcasting System each Thursday afternoon on the Educational Forum from 4:30 to 4:45 central standard time.

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San Francisco County Medical Society.—The San Francisco County Medical Society broadcasts every Tuesday from station KJBS, 11:15 a. m., and over station KFRC, 1:15 p. m.

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Los Angeles County Medical Association.—The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of June is as follows:
 Saturday, June 2—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
 Saturday, June 2—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
 Tuesday, June 5—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
 Saturday, June 9—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
 Saturday, June 9—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
 Tuesday, June 12—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
 Saturday, June 16—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
 Saturday, June 16—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
 Tuesday, June 19—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
 Saturday, June 23—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
 Saturday, June 23—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.
 Tuesday, June 26—KECA, 11:15 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
 Saturday, June 30—KFI, 9 a. m. Subject: Health Talk.
 Saturday, June 30—KFAC, 10 a. m. Subject: Your Doctor and You.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (giving station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Some Important State Election Dates:

June 23—Last day upon which candidates for office may file their nominations.

July 17—Last day for filing initiative petitions. One hundred and eleven thousand valid signatures are required to place an initiative measure upon the ballot.

July 18—Last day for registration for the primary election.

August 28—Primary election.

September 27—Last day of registration for the general election.

November 6—General election.

Query—Are you registered?

State of Washington Eradicates Bovine Tuberculosis.—In recognition of the success of the state of Washington in eradicating tuberculosis from its cattle, the United States Department of Agriculture has designated that state as a modified accredited area. This designation, effective May 1, 1934, signifies that the state has reduced the infection to less than one-half per cent of all its cattle, as indicated by official tuberculin testing. Washington is the fourteenth state to win this recognition. The states already modified accredited are: North Carolina, Maine, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, Idaho, North Dakota, Nevada, New Hampshire, Utah, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

Illness Among Working People During 1929-1933.—According to the Milbank Memorial Fund, the number of physicians' calls to sick working people was cut by one-sixth during the period 1929 to 1933, while the percentage of illnesses hospitalized increased considerably during the same period, and the amount of free care, both from hospitals and physicians, soared to a very high point, according to a first-hand census to determine the relation between sickness and the depression made jointly by the United States Public Health Service and the Milbank Memorial Fund.

The survey consisted of a house-to-house canvass of 6,686 wage-earning families comprising 29,000 individuals, residing in Baltimore, Birmingham, Cleveland, Detroit, New York, Pittsburgh, and Syracuse. After the investigators had turned in their findings, the families were classified into three groups, namely, "poor," comprising those with annual incomes averaging less than \$150 per person; "moderate," those with \$150 to \$424 per person; and "comfortable," those with \$425 or more per person per year. Families with downward shifts in income since 1929 from one class to another were compared with families who experienced no loss of income. As a check these results were also compared with findings for families in similar income levels by the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care for the period 1928-1931, and it is indicated that only about 52 per cent of the cases of illness received some medical care, whether from doctor or hospital, in 1933 as against 68 per cent in 1928-1931, the difference amounting to a drop of 23½ per cent. However, hospitalization taken by itself showed a rise of about 14 per cent for this period, being given to about 7.4 per cent of the illnesses in 1933 as against 6½ per cent in 1928-1931.

Medical Study Trip to Hungary.—At the invitation of the Hungarian Medical Postgraduate Committee of Budapest, a medical study trip to Hungary is being organized. The plans provide for a fortnight visit to Hungary during which there will be postgraduate lectures and demonstrations in English at the principal university clinics and at the municipal thermal baths and springs. Reduced railroad fares and hotel rates are granted by the Hungarian Government. The party will sail from New York on August 18, 1934, visiting Munich and Oberammergau en route. The return trip may be made, optionally, via Berlin, Paris, or Italy, arriving back in New York on September 30.

American physicians of good standing are invited to join. The American Committee of the study trip has as its secretary, Richard Kovacs, M. D., 1100 Park Avenue, New York, from whom information may be obtained.

Thomas Jefferson and Vaccination.—“Vaccination was first applied by Dr. Edward Jenner in 1789 for smallpox. A dozen years later, shortly after ascending the presidency in 1801, President Jefferson caused members of his family to be vaccinated, thus throwing in his influence with medical progressives of his time. For this he was attacked by his political enemies as a ‘maniacal innovator’ and criticized as a dangerous radical. Busy man that he was, Jefferson found time to carry on correspondence with Jenner and other medical leaders of his time and to preach the doctrine of immunization. When a delegation of Indians called on him, Jefferson not only had them vaccinated, but entrusted to their leader, Chief Little Turtle of the Miamis, a supply of vaccine for the members of his tribe. Shipments of virus came to him and he distributed them far and wide.”

Dean of American Medicine Dies.—William H. Welch, M. D., “Dean of American Medicine,” died on April 30 at the age of eighty-four.

Doctor Welch was graduated from Yale University in 1870 with the degree of A. B. and from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1875 with the degree of M. D. Becoming interested in pathology he took postgraduate courses in this subject in Germany, where he received also his early training and inspiration in bacteriology.

On his return to this country in 1878 Doctor Welch established a primitive pathological laboratory at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, where he was professor of pathological anatomy and general pathology until 1884. He was only thirty-four years of age when he became head of the pathological department of Johns Hopkins University, an office he held for more than thirty years. In the selection of Doctors Osler, Halstead, and Kelly he laid the foundations of the university medical faculty of which he was dean from 1893 to 1898. In 1916 he organized and became director of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health and at the age of seventy-five he founded the School of the History of Medicine, where he lectured and taught for many years.

As president, and later as a member of the Maryland State Board of Health, Doctor Welch forged “new lines of activity in the days when official administration in that field was both halting and limited.”

For many years, Doctor Welch was associated with the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research as president of the board of directors. He was also a member of the International Health Board and of the China Medical Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Recognized internationally as a leader in medicine, Doctor Welch was honored by the entire medical world on April 8, 1930, in a celebration of his eightieth birthday. Over a coast to coast network, President Hoover delivered a radio address from Memorial Hall in Washington in which he referred to Doctor Welch as “Our greatest statesman in the field of public health.” At the same time, equally warm tribute was paid him in the presence of audiences assembled in many parts of the world from New York to San Francisco, and from Paris to Peiping.

Trachoma.—Reports from the United States Public Health Service which have just reached us indicate a downward trend in the prevalence of trachoma in this country. The disease is reportable here, and for many years the United States has refused admission to immigrants showing symptoms of it. In the United States, trachoma is found mostly in the Ozark and Appalachian Mountain regions and among the Indian tribes of the southwest; poverty and insanitary living conditions are important factors in its contraction and spread.

University of California Experiments Show Bile Needed to Help Vitamins.—As a further step toward an adequate understanding of the complex chemistry of the body, two University of California scientists have just completed a series of experiments showing that vitamin D, valuable as it is to the body, cannot be absorbed through the digestive tract unless the gall-bladder is in good working order, and is supplying an adequate amount of bile.

The men who made this experiment are: Joseph D. Greaves, research associate, and Dr. Carl L. A. Schmidt, professor of biochemistry on the Berkeley campus of the University.

In making their experiment, Greaves and Schmidt made use of 450 rats. All of these rats had the common disease, rickets, resulting from an inadequate amount of vitamin D. Some of them, in addition, had jaundice, which appears when the bile is backed up in the gall-bladder through obstruction of the duct leading to the intestinal tract.

With these rats as subjects, the University men instituted a course of treatment with vitamin D in the form of viosterol, in an effort to cure the rats of rickets. They found that the vitamin D worked as expected on rats with normal bile ducts, but on those with jaundice the vitamin had no effect. From this they conclude that rickets, in rats at least, cannot be cured with vitamin D unless the bile system is functioning normally. They suspect that the stoppage of the bile and consequent jaundice leads to an injury or functional impairment of the growth cells in the bones.

Doctors Send Sick to University of California from Many Counties in State.—During the past two years the University of California's offer to consult with practicing physicians and to aid in the diagnosis of treatment of obscure diseases has been accepted by 1,925 doctors in forty-six counties of the state, according to a report just issued by Dr. Langley Porter, dean of the Medical School.

Through the coöperative service 4,085 residents of California have been aided in recovering from or in controlling to some extent the peculiar or stubborn diseases with which they were afflicted.

The list of counties which the University has served in this manner covers the state from Imperial on the south to Del Norte on the north. The number of doctors using this service and the number of patients which they referred to the State Medical School staff are as follows:

Alameda, 44 doctors, 52 patients; Butte, 35 and 89; Calaveras, 5 and 9; Colusa, 6 and 14; Contra Costa, 87 and 259; Del Norte, 3 and 7; El Dorado, 2 and 5; Fresno, 71 and 106; Glenn, 12 and 42; Humboldt, 18 and 61; Imperial, 2 and 8; Inyo, 1 and 1; Kern, 12 and 13; Kings, 4 and 8; Lake, 4 and 13; Lassen, 4 and 13; Los Angeles, 14 and 14; Madera, 6 and 16; Marin, 20 and 41; Mendocino, 17 and 67; Merced, 21 and 59; Modoc, 12 and 29; Mono, 8 and 8; Monterey, 48 and 105; Placer, 18 and 35; Plumas, 3 and 4; Sacramento, 52 and 71; San Benito, 6 and 16; San Francisco, 808 and 1,374; San Joaquin, 76 and 165; San Luis Obispo, 7 and 14; San Mateo, 39 and 106; Santa Clara, 132 and 272; Santa Cruz, 26 and 81; Shasta, 10 and 32; Siskiyou, 16 and 50; Solano, 49 and 118; Sonoma, 100 and 349; Stanislaus, 67 and 204; Sutter, 1 and 5; Tehama, 6 and 23; Trinity, 3 and 3; Tuolumne, 6 and 23; Tulare, 22 and 58; Yolo, 9 and 21; and Yuba, 9 and 22.

Congenital Malformations.—The Gynecean Hospital Institute of Gynecologic Research of the University of Pennsylvania is conducting an intensive study of families into which congenitally malformed individuals have been born.

Special interest centers in families in which malformations have appeared in two or more children. Physicians who have knowledge of any such families are urged to communicate with Dr. Douglas P. Murphy, Gynecean Hospital Institute, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Appointment Honor to Dr. Robert T. Legge.—Word has been received that Dr. Robert T. Legge, professor of hygiene at the University of California at Berkeley, has been invited to become a member of the American Committee, representing the United States in the Section on Industrial Diseases, at the Seventh International Congress on Industrial Accidents and Occupational Diseases, to be held in Brussels, Belgium, July, 1935.

The other members of the American Committee are: Dr. Emery R. Hayhurst of Ohio State University, President Dr. Alice Hamilton of Harvard University, Professor Yandell Henderson of Yale University, and Dr. R. R. Sayres, United States Bureau of Mines.

"Health": A New California Publication.—A journal entitled *Health*, edited by Dr. Percy T. Magan, president of the College of Medical Evangelists, Los Angeles, and published by the Pacific Press Association, Mountain View, California, is now one of California's monthly publications, and three numbers have already come off the press. The sponsor of the enterprise is that small but exceedingly active religious denomination, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, whose members, from the beginnings of their work in 1844, have been ardent advocates of all rational measures looking toward the building up of the health of the nation. They possess a most cohesive and earnest world-wide organization for the distribution of religious and health literature, and already have a large subscription list for their latest venture. At Los Angeles the College of Medical Evangelists, a Class A school, has made for itself an enviable standing.

The first editorial is entitled "Health's Confession of Faith." It should be of interest to physicians and surgeons, for the reason that it brings to light the idea that at the present time there are only two Protestant churches holding to definite doctrines of health and healing as fundamental tenets of their religious faith. These two are the Christian Scientists and the Seventh-Day Adventists. Both of these groups firmly believe that to them has been given a divine world-wide mission to teach a definite gospel of health and healing.

So far as the fundamental teachings of the two denominations in this regard are concerned, they are as opposite to each other as the poles; those of the Church of Christ Scientists being not in accord with the vital beliefs of scientific medicine as taught and practiced by the great bulk of physicians composing the medical profession today.

On the other hand, the case with the Seventh-Day Adventists is far otherwise. Doctor Magan sets forth that the medical ministry of this group has for its foundation-stones the teaching of the Great Book and the teaching of all true medical science. To members of the Seventh-Day Adventists Church there can be no possible conflict between true science and the teaching of scripture, for, as they view it, the Creator of all things is the author of both.

Because of the scientific aspect of the medical faith of the band of men and women who have conceived and are bringing forth this new publication, *Health*, there is a natural and powerful bond of union between the profession of scientific medicine and the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

The editor and publishers of *Health* have stated they would do all within their power in upholding the ideals of the medical profession and in supporting the medical profession in all of its contentions against commercialization of the healing art.

Fifth Congress of Pan-American Medical Association.—The recent meeting of the Pan-American Medical Association was held in the nature of a floating congress, comprising a cruise to the West Indies and South America. On March 14, 514 medical men, their families and friends, sailed from New York on the steamship *Pennsylvania* for a sixteen-day cruise of the Caribbean Sea. This unique medical convention was held on the high seas and also on shore jointly with the physicians of the ports of call, namely, Havana, Cuba; Panama; Cartagena, Colombia; Maracay, La Guaira and Caracas, Venezuela; and San Juan, Puerto Rico. In all countries visited, the program included visits to the hospitals, institutions of learning and points of interest. In the Latin-American countries, receptions were tendered by the local doctors, governmental officials, and many individual and official courtesies and hospitalities were extended to all members and delegates. Veritably, the congress was a cross-section of the progress of medicine, and the 193 papers presented before its scientific sections well represented the latest discoveries and methods of treatment in every branch of medicine.

To stimulate interest, closely allied special sections were combined into four large groups. This combination of specialties resulted in very well attended and interesting meetings. A daily meeting of the general assembly also was held before which papers on topics of general interest were read. In addition, a number of round-table discussions, some twenty-five moving pictures demonstrating operations and addresses on modern aspects of bringing up children were given.

"Vitamin D Milk"—San Francisco Executive Order. All distributors of milk in San Francisco are hereby notified that the sale or distribution of "Vitamin D Milk" within the city and county of San Francisco is prohibited, except that a permit for the sale and distribution may be granted only if the following requirements are fully complied with:

1. Milk reinforced or fortified with vitamin D shall be the produce of non-reacting tuberculin-tested dairy herds housed on dairy farms complying with the provisions of the milk ordinance (effective May 15, 1933) and the rules and regulations of the Department of Public Health governing the production of Grade A market milk.

2. It shall be plainly indicated on the label of each package of vitamin D milk (a) the method of introduction of the added vitamin D; (b) the number of vitamin D units the reinforced product contains; (c) evidence of approved laboratory confirmation at the expense of the distributor; (d) definite instructions that vitamin D milk is to be used only on the advice of and under the supervision of a physician.

3. No therapeutic claims of any description shall appear on the label or in any advertising copy.

The Director of Public Health wishes to record the fact that he disapproves the present tendency of manufacturers to add measured quantities of vitamins to foods for commercial purposes. The insufficient and incomplete scientific knowledge available at this time on the possible effects of the consumption of vitamin reinforced food products over indefinite periods of time fully justifies the attitude that caution should be observed in the use of such products. There is still considerable question, particularly in the instance of vitamin D, of what constitutes the proper dosage of vitamin concentrates in the various age groups. Any attempt to increase the sale of a food product, especially milk, by the addition of a substance whose value to the public health is still a controversial problem is indeed ill advised, since the final evidence, to be determined by research methods, has not yet been secured. Even if it is granted that the actual danger in the consumption of vitamin D milk is relatively minimal, there is as yet no definite and accepted information on the limits or margins of clinical safety. Under these circumstances, therefore, it is believed that the administration of such products should be surely in the province of the physician and not in that of the commercial distributor or manufacturer of food products. (Signed) J. C. Geiger, Director of Public Health.

Enlarged Federal Program for Spray Residue Study. The United States Department of Agriculture will broaden its search for substitutes for lead arsenate and other poisonous spray materials now in general use to protect fruit and vegetables from insects, Secretary Wallace announced today.

Many sprays, especially the arsenicals, leave a residue which presents a definite health hazard, and it is necessary for the department to enforce strict regulations on spray removal to protect consumers. The department seeks to develop harmless insecticides to replace the more harmful ones and thus do away with the necessity for spray removal, which is troublesome and expensive to fruit growers.

Three bureaus—the Bureau of Entomology, the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, and the Bureau of Plant Industry—will participate in the enlarged program.

Seminar in Physical Therapy.—A seminar will be held at the Mayfair Hotel, Seventh Street at Hartford, Los Angeles, on Thursday, June 21. Sessions will run from 9 a. m. to 12 noon, and 2 to 5 p. m. The dinner session will be 7 to 10 p. m.

The Western Division of the American Congress of Physical Therapy, in joint session with the Pacific Physical Therapy Association, and with endorsement of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, will have as guest speakers: Disraeli Kobak, M. D., professor of physical therapy at Rush Medical College, who will speak on the latest developments in application of fever therapy; and Bernard L. Wyatt, M. D., of the Wyatt Clinic, Tucson, Arizona, who will talk on "The Newer Aspects in Treatment of Chronic Arthritis."

Registration fee is \$3, which includes banquet ticket. Any money collected above actual expenses will be donated to the Barlow Medical Library for books and literature on physical therapy. For further information write to John S. Hibben, M. D., 506 First Trust Building, Pasadena.

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject of following letter: Wastage or loss of narcotics in topical applications, in ear, nose and throat practice.

To the Editor:—Recently a physician practicing eye, ear, nose and throat work was convicted on a technical narcotic charge and sentenced to serve fifteen months at McNeil Island. It was claimed that he used fictitious addresses, but there was an undercurrent of suspicion against him of either using narcotics himself or selling them. I had been associated with him for about six months and was almost certain that he was not an addict and was not selling narcotics.

I became interested in the case and consulted Dr. Charles S. Schroeder, of the Research Laboratory connected with the San Diego Zoölogical Society in Balboa Park. He referred me to Mr. James T. Jennings, who is an expert in extracting narcotics and other drugs, and is employed by the city in investigations of poison cases, etc. The enclosed report is self-explanatory. The only addition I can make is that narcotics used by eye, ear, nose and throat specialists for local anesthetics left in the nostril for ten minutes have a loss of 90 per cent or more; applicators thrown away after being used for fifteen minutes have a waste of 80 to 85 per cent; and, after twenty minutes there is a loss of 75 per cent and over.

As there has been no work done on this loss of narcotics in ear, nose and throat work, there was no way to refute the United States attorney's questions as to "what becomes of all the cocain," "where does it go?" Hundreds of pounds are being thrown away by specialists, and should they be called by the Narcotic Bureau to check up on what they are using it for they would be in about the same situation as the above stated case.

I think that this should be checked into and a thorough investigation be made; also, that men practicing

eye, ear, nose and throat specialties should be notified regarding the situation, preparatory to a possible check-up by the Narcotic Division.

Very truly yours,
ARTHUR WEGEFORTH, M. D.

April 23, 1934.

To Dr. Arthur Wegforth,
Granger Building, San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir:—Report on recovery of cocain from cotton swabs follows:

Purpose of Experiment: To soak up a known amount of 10 per cent cocain hydrochlorid solution with two cotton swabs, to apply them to the nasal passage as is commonly done for a local anesthetic, and then to extract the narcotic left unabsorbed in order to determine just how much of the cocain "used" is actually absorbed by the mucous membranes, and just what amount is discarded in the waste.

Procedure: (1) At the Zoölogical Research Hospital, San Diego, California, April 9, 1934, was received a small sealed bottle from Allen's Exclusive Pharmacy containing six grains of cocain hydrochlorid in one dram of distilled water (a 10 per cent solution). The solution was absorbed in two cotton swabs weighing approximately five grams each, which were then applied to the nasal passage of the subject, Dr. A. Wegforth, one swab for a period of ten minutes, the other swab for a period of twenty minutes. Then the swabs and the small bottle were washed repeatedly with small portions of absolute alcohol to extract all of the cocain hydrochlorid, if any, left in the bottle or remaining in the swabs after anesthesia. The alcoholic solution and mucus thus obtained were then evaporated to dryness, redissolved in alcohol and filtered to remove the mucus, and again evaporated and dried. The residue of cocain hydrochlorid was then weighed and bottled.

(2) To check the results of the first analysis a second similar experiment was made. A small sealed bottle was received from Allen's Exclusive Pharmacy April 16, 1934, at Doctor Wegforth's office, containing six grains of cocain hydrochlorid in one dram of distilled water (a 10 per cent solution). The contents of the bottle were soaked up in two cotton swabs weighing approximately five grams each, which were then applied to the nasal passage of the subject, Dr. A. Wegforth, this time for twenty minutes each. Then the cocain hydrochlorid remaining was extracted from the cotton swabs and from the bottle, employing the same procedure as before.

Results: (1) In the first trial, 289 milligrams or 74.3 per cent of the original six grains of cocain hydrochlorid was recovered.

(2) In the second trial 279 milligrams or 71.8 per cent of the original six grains of cocain hydrochlorid was recovered. (Percentage lower, perhaps, because one swab was left in the nostril for a longer period.)

Conclusion: The conclusion to be drawn from the experiment as conducted above is that cocain hydrochlorid, when used as a local anesthetic and applied by means of cotton swabs left in the nasal passage for a short time, is in large measure wasted. The experiment indicates that 70 to 75 per cent of the narcotic is thrown away in the waste cotton, or in part in the bottle the solution is delivered in. (Results obtained were probably lower, if any, than the true value, due to possible loss in the recovery process.) That is, approximately only 25 per cent of the cocain hydrochlorid is actually used in anesthetizing. Perhaps the concomitant loss is at least in part necessary, but it is nevertheless a factor to be considered, in view of the above experiment.

April 21, 1934.

JAMES T. JENNINGS, A. B.

Subject of following letter: Medical international good-will tour to Japan and the Orient:

May 18, 1934.

To the Editor:—As you have read in the enclosed invitation and pamphlet, it gives me the greatest pleasure to make this announcement of the doctors'